THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHRA RAJE): A statement is enclosed regarding agreements signed with West European countries (*see* below). Government has not signed any agreement with East European countries and with USA.

Statement

Agreements signed with Foreign Countries

FRANCE

(1) Agreement on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters signed in January, 1998 to enable the two countries to combat crime and facilitate the bringing of fugitive offenders to justice. It reflects the shared concern of the two countries over the glotalisation and internationalization of crime.

(2) Agreement on Mutual Legal Assistance in Civil Matters signed in January 1998 to provide a juridical framework for the transmission and serving of documents, obtaining of evidence and recognition and enforcement of the substantial commercial and economic links between the two countries.

(3) Letter of Intent on Cooperation in the field of Biotechnology signed in January 1998 provides for implementation of joint projects in this field.

GERMANY

Cultural Exchange Programme (1997-2000) signed in December 1997.

GREECE

Agreement on Tourism signed in January, 1998.

ITALY

(1) Agreement to Combat Terrorism, Organised Crime and Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances signed in January 1998.

(2) Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation between Small and Medium Enterprises signed in January 1998.

(3) Cultural Exchange Programme (1998-2000) signed in January 1998.

Indian in Gulf Prisons

180. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indians in Gulf prisons as on date; and

(b) the reasons for so many Indians undergoing imprisonment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHRA RAJE): (a) According to available information, the number of Indians in prisons in the Gulf countries as on 20.5.98 are as follows (the figures available for Saudi Arabia are only of those convicted since 1996):—

(1) Bahrain	—	113
(2) Iraq	—	4
(3) Kuwait	—	53
(4) Oman	—	207
(5) Qatar	—	170
(6) Saudi Arabia	—	2702
(7) United Arab Emirates	—	800

(b) The above number includes those who have been convicted or are awaiting trial in respect of serious crimes such as murder, adultery and contraband (including narcotics) trade as well as of relatively minor offences such as theft, consumption of liquor, trespassing and violation of local labour laws.

Study on problems faced by Indians working Abroad

181. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Indians working abroad, country-wise;

(b) whether a study has been conducted by Government on the various problems faced by the Indians working abroad;